

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Inventor: David J. HOUSTON et al. Group Art Unit: 3711

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

| 04/13/2005 SZEWDIE1 00000148 10707831
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Sirs:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that the information on Form PTO/SB/08A be considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any issued patent.

The references include foreign patent documents. German Patent No. DE3413247, with english language abstract; French Patent No. FR2637811, with english language abstract; French Patent No. 2776935, with english language abstract; Japanese Patent No. 10192469, with english language abstract; and Japanese Patent. No. 11239626, with english language abstract.

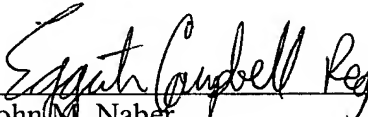
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, the statutory fee of \$180.00 is attached via credit card authorization. The Commissioner is directed and authorized

to charge any additional fees or any underpayment of fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed along with a response to a Non-Final Office Action dated January 12, 2005.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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